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NO. 32 JULY
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MYSTERY IN SPACE
Featuring "The RIDDLE OF THE VANISHING EARTHMEN!"
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE EARTHMEN ABOARD THIS SPACESHIP? WE KNOW THEY WERE HERE A MINUTE AGO!

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BOYS
GIRLS

BE FIRST

ACT NOW

WATCHES

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ACT NOW

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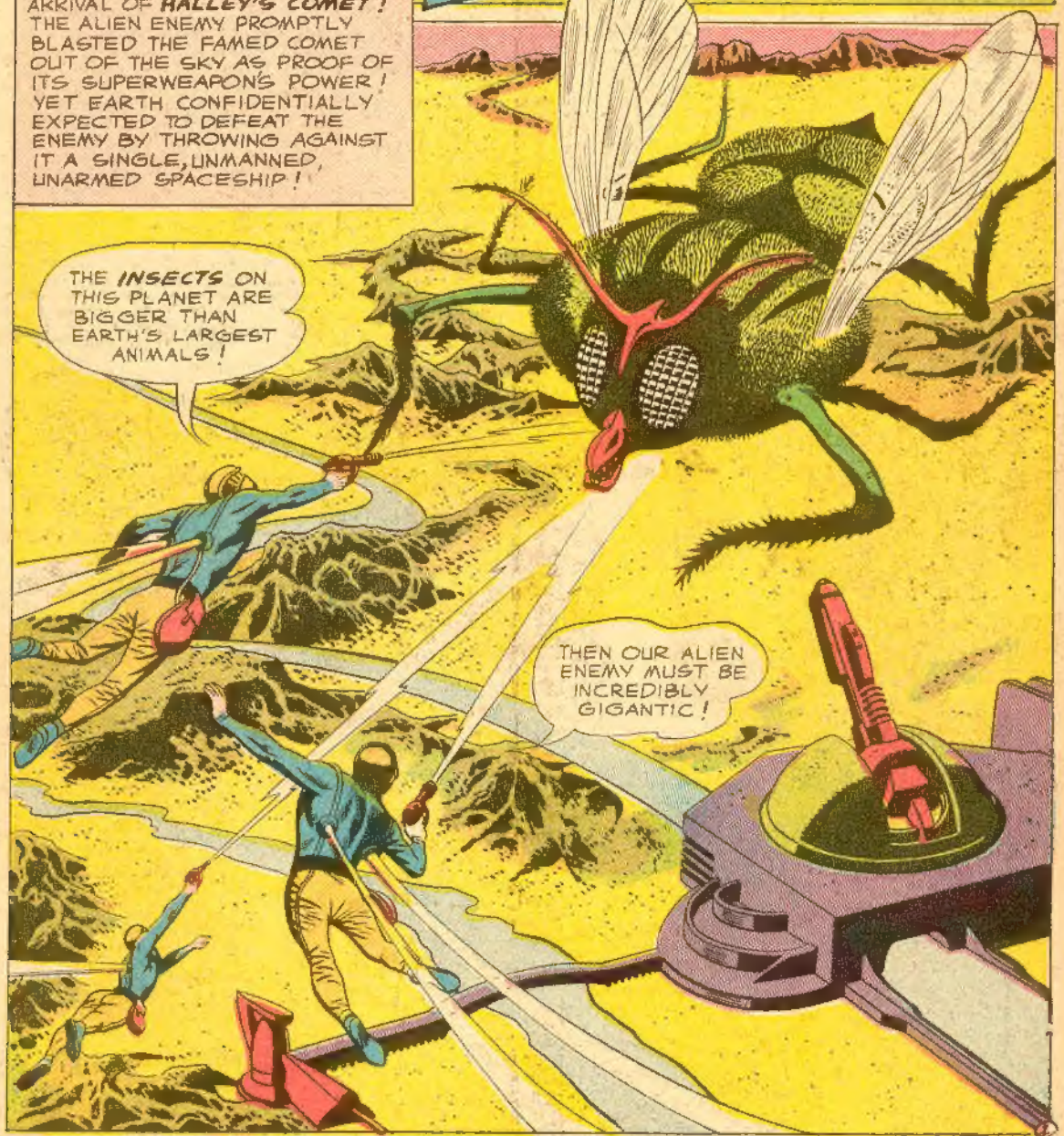
RIDDLE of the VANISHING EARTHMEN!

THE CHALLENGE TO SURRENDER THE EARTH CAME FROM DEEP SPACE ON APRIL 29, 1986 -- COINCIDING WITH THE PERIODIC ARRIVAL OF ***HALLEY'S COMET!*** THE ALIEN ENEMY PROMPTLY BLASTED THE FAMED COMET OUT OF THE SKY AS PROOF OF ITS SUPERWEAPON'S POWER! YET EARTH CONFIDENTIALLY EXPECTED TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY BY THROWING AGAINST IT A SINGLE, UNMANNED, UNARMED SPACESHIP!



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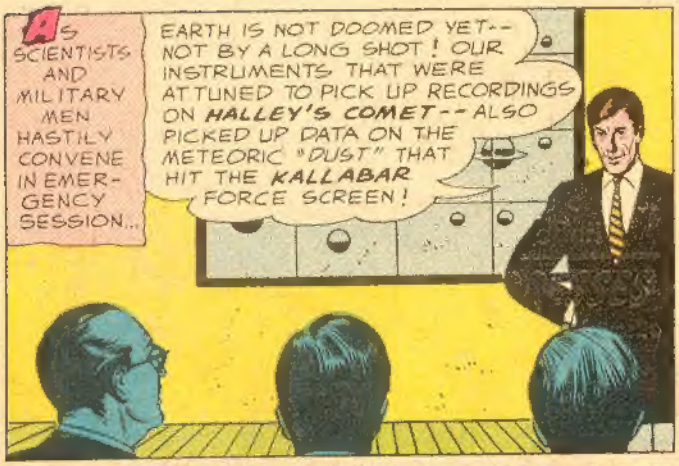
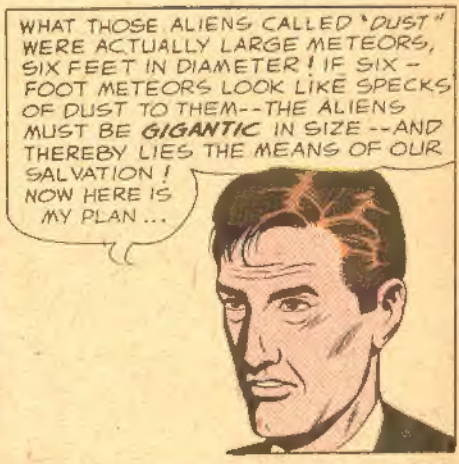
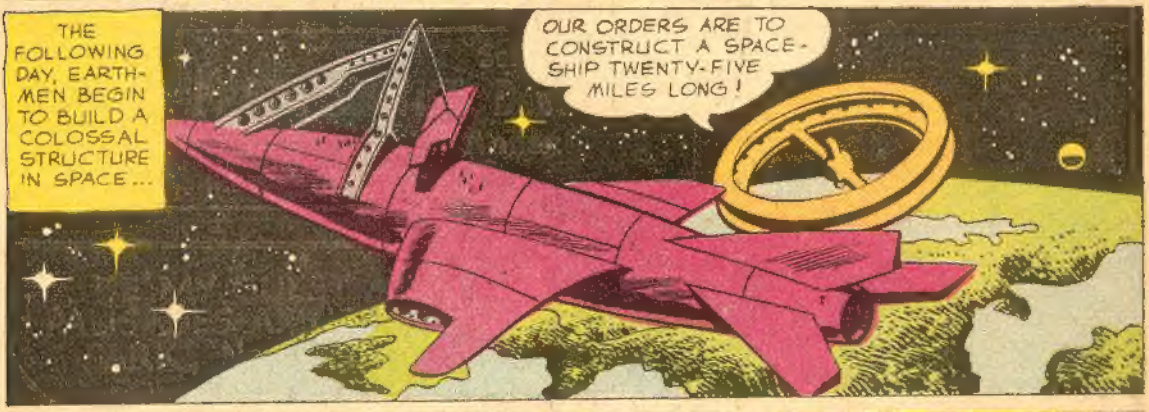
Printed in U.S.A.

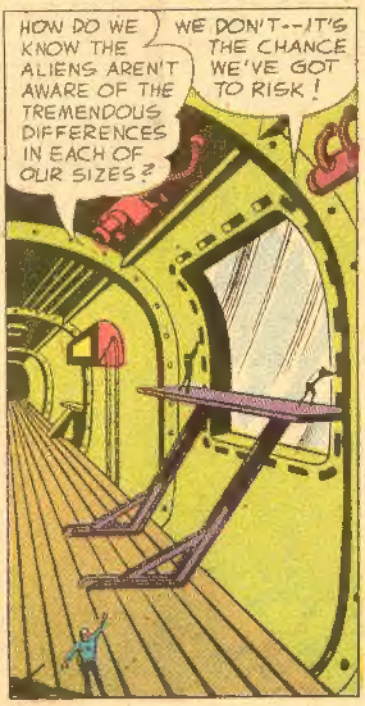
ON APRIL 29, 1986, EVERY TELEVISION SCREEN ON EARTH BLANKS OUT! TEN SECONDS LATER, AN ALIEN VISAGE DOMINATES THE SCREEN ...
THE PLANET KALLABAR DEMANDS THE SURRENDER OF EARTH!
ANY ATTEMPT TO RESIST WITH YOUR PUNY WEAPONS WILL BE FUTILE! WE HAVE A SUPERWEAPON THAT CAN INSTANTLY ANNIHILATE YOUR PLANET FROM OUR HOME BASE! AS PROOF OF OUR CLAIMS -- WATCH HALLEY'S COMET -- NOW APPEARING IN YOUR SKIES!
LIGHT YEARS AWAY, ON THE PLANET KALLABAR, A HUGE METAL DOME ROLLS BACK AND A BIZARRE WEAPON LIFTS INTO VIEW...
OUR WEAPON FIRES SHELLS THAT ABSORB COSMIC ENERGY AS THEY TRAVEL FASTER THAN LIGHT THROUGH SPACE! NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE CAN WITHSTAND THEIR EXPLOSIVE POWER!
ON EARTH, MILLIONS OF EYES TURN SKYWARD - AS THE COSMIC SHELLS STRIKE EARTH'S FAMED CELESTIAL VISITOR...
HALLEY'S COMET -- SHATTERED!
"OUR PLANET IS PROTECTED BY AN IMPENETRABLE FORCE SCREEN! WE OF KALLABAR HAVE THE PERFECT WEAPON AND THE PERFECT DEFENSE AGAINST ATTACK..."
OBSERVE -- NOT EVEN METEORIC DUST CAN PENETRATE OUR FORCE SCREEN!
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ARE SHAKEN AS THEY WATCH THE CONVINCING DEMONSTRATION OF THE INVULNERABILITY OF THE KALLABAR FORCES...
THIS IS OUR ULTIMATUM! UNLESS YOU AGREE TO SURRENDER WITHIN THE TIME LIMIT OF ONE REVOLUTION OF YOUR SATELLITE AROUND YOUR PLANET, WE SHALL PROMPTLY DESTROY THE EARTH AS WE DESTROYED HALLEY'S COMET!
TWENTY-EIGHT DAYS TO REACH AN IMPOSSIBLE DECISION!

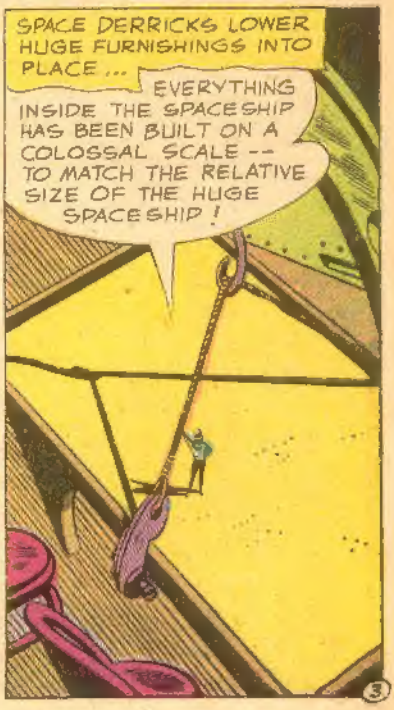

AS SCIENTISTS AND MILITARY MEN HASTILY CONVENE IN EMERGENCY SESSION...
EARTH IS NOT DOOMED YET--NOT BY A LONG SHOT! OUR INSTRUMENTS THAT WERE ATTUNED TO PICK UP RECORDINGS ON HALLEY'S COMET--ALSO PICKED UP DATA ON THE METEORIC "DUST" THAT HIT THE KALLABAR FORCE SCREEN!

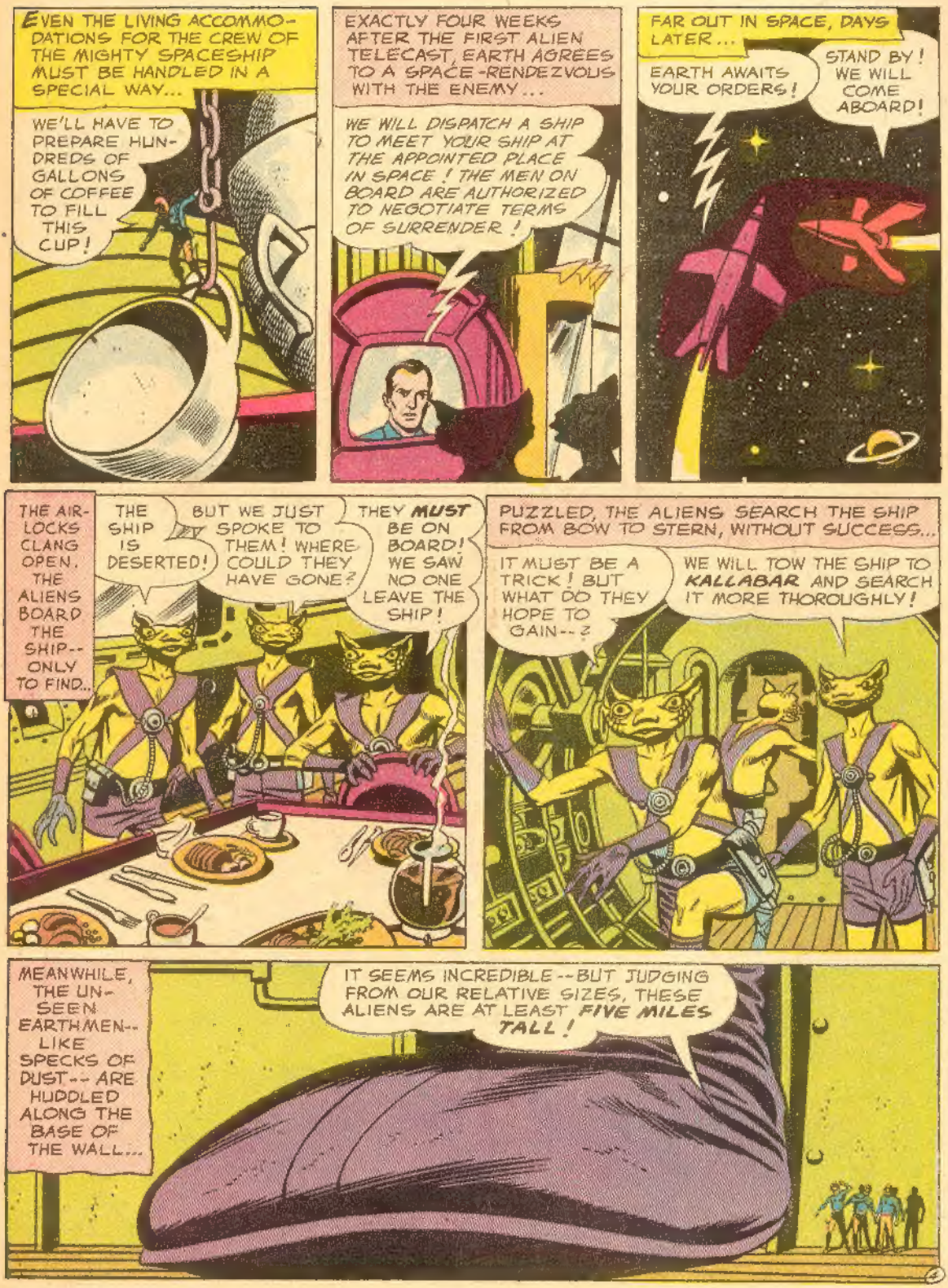

WHAT THOSE ALIENS CALLED "DUST" WERE ACTUALLY LARGE METEORS, SIX FEET IN DIAMETER! IF SIX-FOOT METEORS LOOK LIKE SPECKS OF DUST TO THEM--THE ALIENS MUST BE GIGANTIC IN SIZE--AND THEREBY LIES THE MEANS OF OUR SALVATION! NOW HERE IS MY PLAN...


THE FOLLOWING DAY, EARTHMEN BEGIN TO BUILD A COLOSSAL STRUCTURE IN SPACE...
OUR ORDERS ARE TO CONSTRUCT A SPACESHIP TWENTY-FIVE MILES LONG!

SINCE THOSE ALIENS CAN SEE THE EARTH WITH THEIR SUPER-TELESCOPES, WE HAVE TO BUILD THE SHIP SECRETLY ON THE SIDE OF EARTH TURNED AWAY FROM THEM!


HOW DO WE KNOW THE ALIENS AREN'T AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS DIFFERENCES IN EACH OF OUR SIZES?
WE DON'T--IT'S THE CHANCE WE'VE GOT TO RISK!


SPACE DERRICKS LOWER HUGE FURNISHINGS INTO PLACE...
EVERYTHING INSIDE THE SPACESHIP HAS BEEN BUILT ON A COLOSSAL SCALE--TO MATCH THE RELATIVE SIZE OF THE HUGE SPACESHIP!


EVEN THE LIVING ACCOMMODATIONS FOR THE CREW OF THE MIGHTY SPACESHIP MUST BE HANDLED IN A SPECIAL WAY...
WE'LL HAVE TO PREPARE HUNDREDS OF GALLONS OF COFFEE TO FILL THIS CUP!
EXACTLY FOUR WEEKS AFTER THE FIRST ALIEN TELECAST, EARTH AGREES TO A SPACE-RENDEZVOUS WITH THE ENEMY...
WE WILL DISPATCH A SHIP TO MEET YOUR SHIP AT THE APPOINTED PLACE IN SPACE! THE MEN ON BOARD ARE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE TERMS OF SURRENDER!
FAR OUT IN SPACE, DAYS LATER...
EARTH AWAITS YOUR ORDERS!
STAND BY! WE WILL COME ABOARD!
THE AIR-LOCKS CLANG OPEN. THE ALIENS BOARD THE SHIP--ONLY TO FIND..
THE SHIP IS DESERTED!
BUT WE JUST SPOKE TO THEM! WHERE COULD THEY HAVE GONE?
THEY MUST BE ON BOARD! WE SAW NO ONE LEAVE THE SHIP!
PUZZLED, THE ALIENS SEARCH THE SHIP FROM BOW TO STERN, WITHOUT SUCCESS...
IT MUST BE A TRICK! BUT WHAT DO THEY HOPE TO GAIN--?
WE WILL TOW THE SHIP TO KALLABAR AND SEARCH IT MORE THOROUGHLY!
MEANWHILE, THE UNSEEN EARTHMEN--LIKE SPECKS OF DUST--ARE HUDDLED ALONG THE BASE OF THE WALL...
IT SEEMS INCREDIBLE--BUT JUDGING FROM OUR RELATIVE SIZES, THESE ALIENS ARE AT LEAST FIVE MILES TALL!

SUDDENLY, ONE OF THE EARTHMEN LEAPS AT ANOTHER...
LOOK OUT!
KRAAKH!
WHAT IS IT?
ONE OF THOSE CLUMSY ALIENS DROPPED A SAUCER! IT FELL A FEW MILES TO THE FLOOR--AND BROKE!
COMPLETELY INVISIBLE TO THE KALLABARANS, THE THREE-MAN CREW RIDES THEIR SHIP TO THE ALIEN PLANET IN PERFECT FREEDOM...
THEY LIFTED THEIR FORCE SCREEN TO GET OUR TOWED SHIP THROUGH!
AS SOON AS WE LAND, WE'LL BEGIN OUR PLAN OF ACTION!
SOON AFTER, THE THREE EARTHMEN JET-PROPEL THEMSELVES ACROSS A FIELD...
FLYING MONSTER AHEAD!
DRAW YOUR RAY-GUNS!
A KALLABARAN INSECT--BIGGER THAN EARTH'S LARGEST ANIMAL!

CAREFUL--DON'T GET CAUGHT UNDER THAT WALKING GIANT'S FOOT!
SOON AFTER, THEY REACH THE DOME-LIKE BUILDING THAT HOLDS THE ALIENS' SUPER-WEAPON...
ONE OF THESE COBALT BOMBS IS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BLOW AN EARTH CONTINENT TO DUST!
THREE OF THEM OUGHT TO WRECK THIS BUILDING!
AFTER SETTING THE TIME DEVICE, THE EARTHMEN FLEE--FOLLOWED SOON AFTER BY A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION...
BLAAAAMM!
AT KALLABAR HEADQUARTERS...
LOOK! THE EARTH SPACESHIP IS TAKING OFF!
SOMEHOW THEY GOT OUT WITHOUT OUR SEEING THEM--BOMBED THE SUPER-BLASTER--THEN GOT BACK TO THEIR SHIP!
THE ALIENS CONTACT THE THREE EARTHMEN ON THEIR KALLABAR SPACESCREEN..
WE KNEW YOU MUST BE ABOARD, BUT WE COULD NOT FIND YOU! WHERE WERE YOU HIDING?
WE WILL NOT REVEAL OUR SECRET--OTHER THAN TO TELL YOU WE WERE IN SIGHT ALL THE TIME! WE DESTROYED YOUR SUPERWEAPON AS PROOF OF OUR POWER TO INVADE YOUR PLANET SECRETLY WHENEVER WE CHOOSE!
WE SHALL SET UP A SPACE-PATROL AROUND KALLABAR! SHOULD YOU EVER THREATEN EARTH AGAIN, WE SHALL DESTROY YOUR WORLD FIRST! THAT IS OUR ULTIMATUM TO YOU!
The End

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... AND HERE'S HOW BENJAMIN FRANKLIN LEARNED ABOUT ELECTRICITY. HE WAS A REAL PIONEER IN SCIENCE.

I'D LIKE TO BE A PIONEER MYSELF, BUT I GUESS THERE'S NOT MUCH LEFT TO BE DISCOVERED!

WHAT A WAY TO TALK, ALLERGY! THERE'S A WORLD OF THINGS WAITING TO BE DISCOVERED...

MAYBE YOU'VE GOT SOMETHING, BINKY!

"SURE, I CAN JUST SEE MYSELF IN ABOUT FIFTEEN YEARS..."

YES, THIS IS THE SPECIAL SCENIC ROUTE.

ALLERGY'S CRATER TOURS FIVE-DAY TRIP to the MOON

"ME, TOO. MAYBE I'LL BE THE ONE TO DISCOVER A CURE FOR SOME DISEASE..."

CHECK, DOCTOR. THAT FITS WITH MY RESULTS. I THINK WE'VE GOT SOMETHING NEW HERE!

"AND MAYBE I'LL INVENT SOMETHING NEW FOR ONE OF THOSE BIG ELECTRONIC MACHINES..."

WELL, I THOUGHT WE HAD PERFECTED THIS, TOM, BUT YOUR INVENTION HAS IMPROVED IT.

YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT SLANT. PIONEER SPIRIT FOUNDED AND BUILT THIS COUNTRY, AND NEW PIONEERING OPPORTUNITIES ARE ALWAYS OPENING UP. JUST KEEP ALERT AND LEARN AS MUCH AS YOU CAN!

PUBLISHED AS A PUBLIC SERVICE IN COOPERATION WITH THE NATIONAL SOCIAL WELFARE ASSEMBLY, COORDINATING ORGANIZATION FOR NATIONAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND RECREATION AGENCIES OF THE U. S.

LONG HAD EARTH AWAITED ITS FIRST VISITOR FROM OUTER SPACE ! AT LAST, IT CAME -- A CRAFT FROM THE COSMOS ! BUT DID IT CARRY FRIEND OR FOE ? AND WHAT WAS THE STRANGE *TICK-TOCK* SOUND THAT ISSUED FROM WITHIN THE VESSEL ? SOME SORT OF COMMUNICATING SIGNAL FROM ALIEN CREATURES ? SUDDENLY, EARTHMEN KNEW THE OMINOUS ANSWER -- ONLY TO REALIZE THAT TOO LATE THEY HAD LEARNED...

THE SECRET OF THE SPACE-BOMB!

THERE IS NO ONE INSIDE THE SPACE-SHIP ! BUT THERE'S A STRANGE SOUND COMING FROM INSIDE ! WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

TICK-TOCK ooo

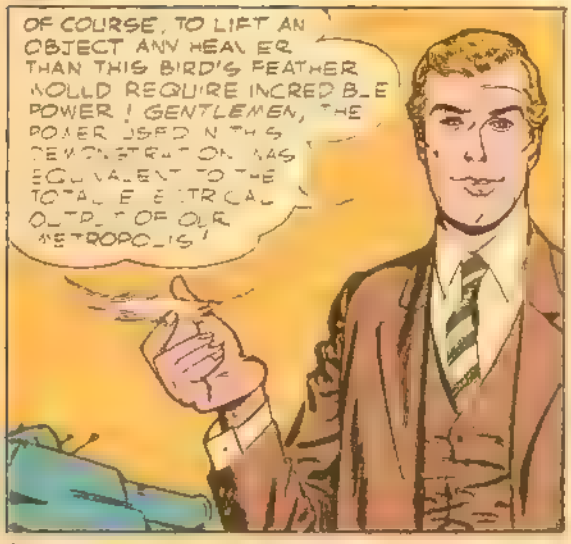
AT WORLD CENTER SCIENCE HALL, BRILLIANT YOUNG PHYSICIST ALLAN GARRETT STARTLES THE AUDIENCE WITH A REMARKABLE DEMONSTRATION...

WORLD SCIEN CENTER

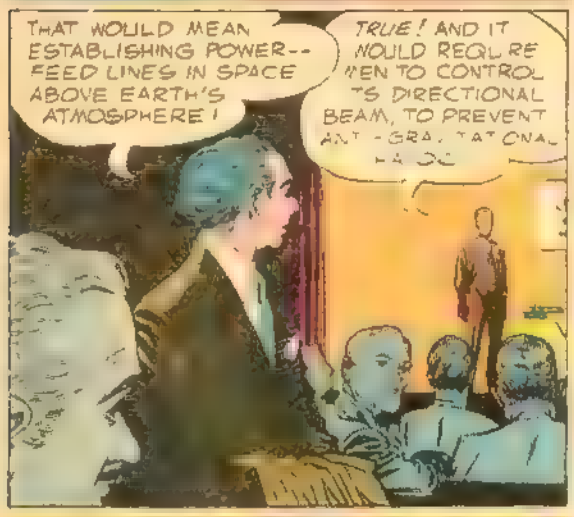
YOU SEE, MY ANTI-GRAVITY BEAM RAISES THE BIRD'S FEATHER AND SUSPENDS IT IN *MID-AIR !*

DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THAT MEANS ?

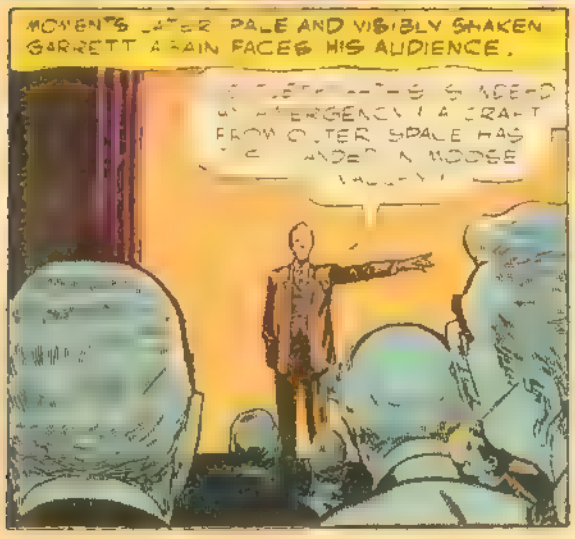
LIFE ON EARTH WILL BE REVOLUTIONIZED ! MAN, AT LAST, CAN ***TRULY*** DEFY GRAVITY !

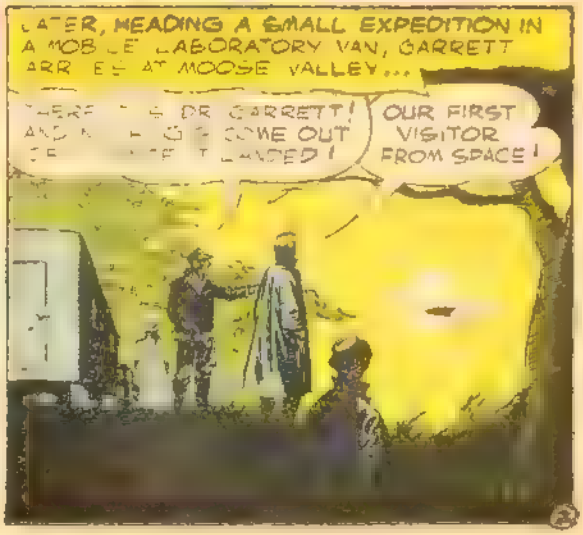

OF COURSE, TO LIFT AN OBJECT ANY HEAVIER THAN THIS BIRD'S FEATHER WOULD REQUIRE INCREDIBLE POWER! GENTLEMEN, THE POWER USED IN THIS DEMONSTRATION WAS EQUIVALENT TO THE TOTAL ELECTRICAL OUTPUT OF OUR METROPOLIS!

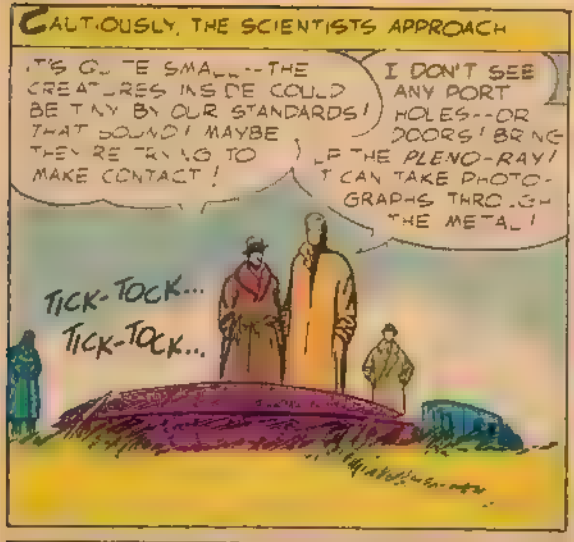
MY MACHINE CAN BE POWERED BY COSMIC RAYS IF THEY CAN BE HARNESSED BEFORE THEY PASS THROUGH THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE! WITH SUCH POWER THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE DEGREE GRAVITY CAN BE OVERCOME!

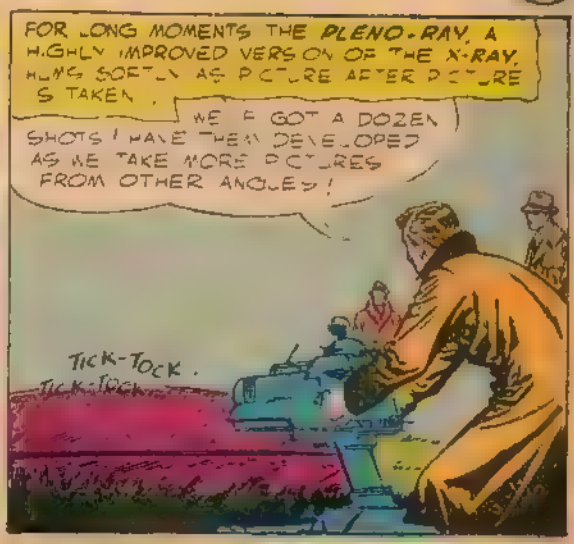

THAT WOULD MEAN ESTABLISHING POWER-- FEED LINES IN SPACE ABOVE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!
TRUE! AND IT WOULD REQUIRE MEN TO CONTROL ITS DIRECTIONAL BEAM, TO PREVENT ANTI-GRAVITATIONAL HAVOC

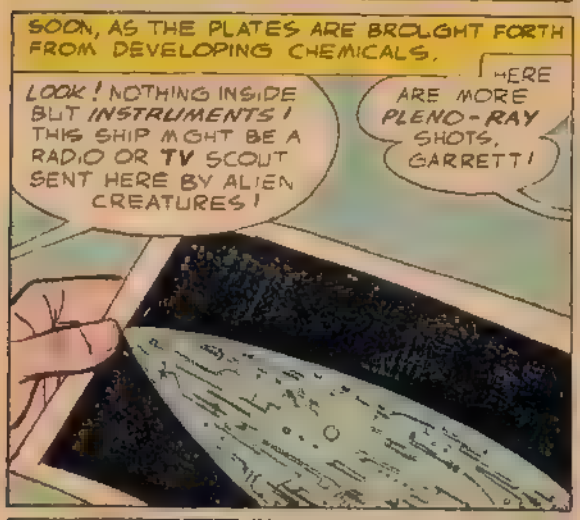
BUT BEFORE GARRETT CAN CONTINUE, AN OFF-STAGE VOICE INTERRUPTS
DR GARRETT, YOU TOLD ME NOT TO INTERRUPT--EXCEPT FOR AN EMERGENCY--BUT THERE'S AN URGENT PHONE CALL IN YOUR OFFICE!
OF COURSE! EXCUSE ME, GENTLEMEN


MOMENTS LATER PALE AND VISIBLY SHAKEN GARRETT AGAIN FACES HIS AUDIENCE.
AN INTERPLANETARY EMERGENCY! A CRAFT FROM OUTER SPACE HAS JUST LANDED IN MOOSE VALLEY!

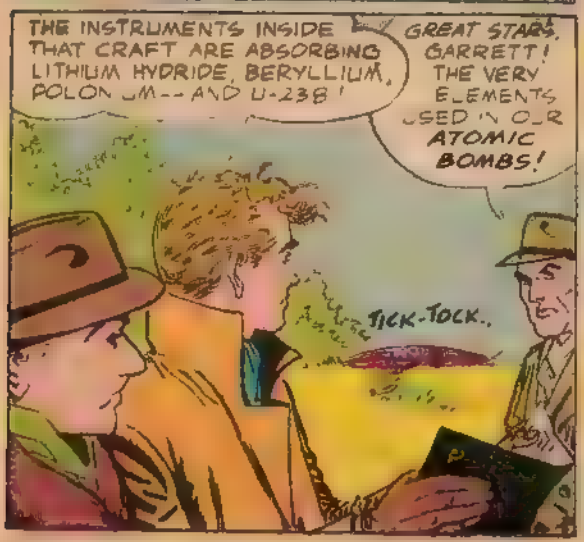

LATER, HEADING A SMALL EXPEDITION IN A MOBILE LABORATORY VAN, GARRETT ARRIVES AT MOOSE VALLEY...
THERE'S DR GARRETT! AND HE'S COME OUT OF THE SHIP UNHARMED!
OUR FIRST VISITOR FROM SPACE!

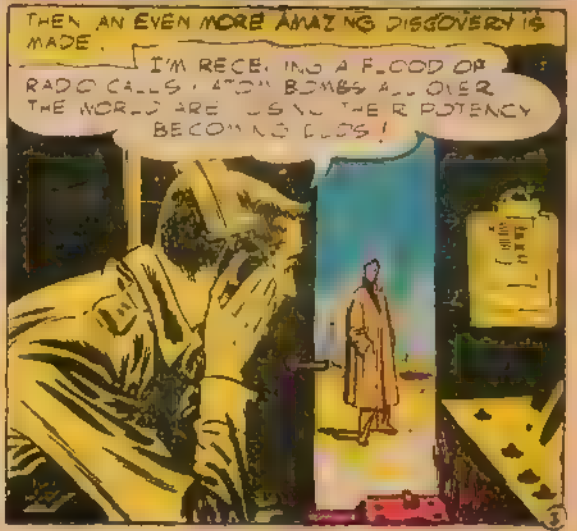

CAUTIOUSLY, THE SCIENTISTS APPROACH
IT'S QUITE SMALL--THE CREATURES INSIDE COULD BE TINY BY OUR STANDARDS! THAT SOUND! MAYBE THEY'RE TRYING TO MAKE CONTACT!
I DON'T SEE ANY PORT HOLES--OR DOORS! BRING UP THE PLENO-RAY! IT CAN TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS THROUGH THE METAL!
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...

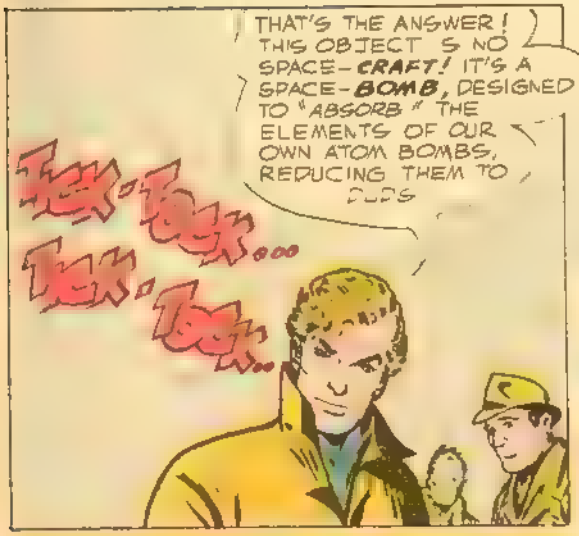

FOR LONG MOMENTS THE PLENO-RAY, A HIGHLY IMPROVED VERSION OF THE X-RAY, HUMS SOFTLY AS PICTURE AFTER PICTURE IS TAKEN.
WE'VE GOT A DOZEN SHOTS! HAVE THEM DEVELOPED AS WE TAKE MORE PICTURES FROM OTHER ANGLES!
TICK-TOCK.
TICK-TOCK...

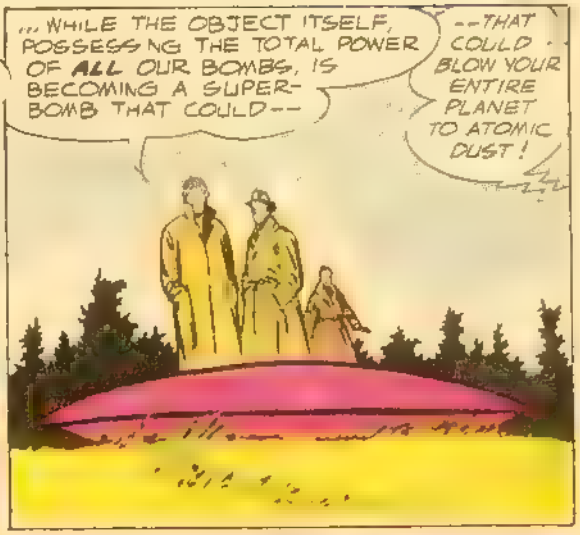

SOON, AS THE PLATES ARE BROUGHT FORTH FROM DEVELOPING CHEMICALS,
LOOK! NOTHING INSIDE BUT INSTRUMENTS! THIS SHIP MIGHT BE A RADIO OR TV SCOUT SENT HERE BY ALIEN CREATURES!
HERE ARE MORE PLENO-RAY SHOTS, GARRETT!

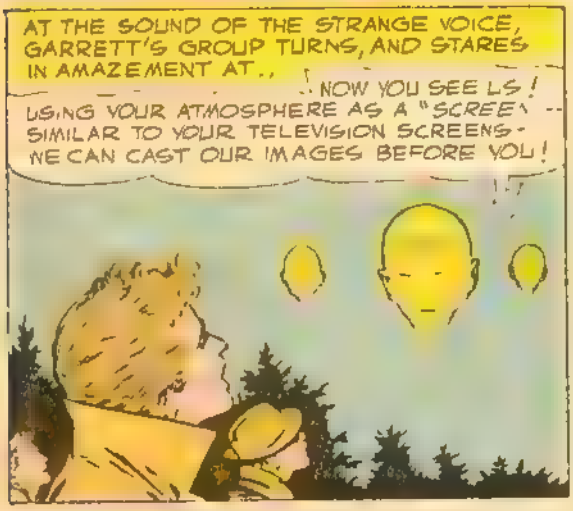
A SECOND SET OF PLATES ARE DEVELOPED AND
GOOD GOSH! THE INSTRUMENTS HAVE BECOME SURROUNDED BY A RADIO-ACTIVE GLOW! IT CAN MEAN ONLY ONE THING--!

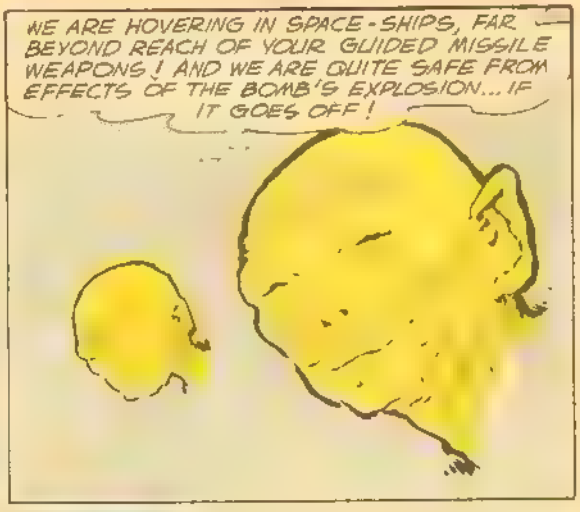

THE INSTRUMENTS INSIDE THAT CRAFT ARE ABSORBING LITHIUM HYDRIDE, BERYLLIUM, POLONIUM--AND U-238!
GREAT STARS, GARRETT! THE VERY ELEMENTS USED IN OUR ATOMIC BOMBS!
TICK-TOCK..


THEN AN EVEN MORE AMAZING DISCOVERY IS MADE.
I'M RECEIVING A FLOOD OF RADIO CALLS! ATOM BOMBS ALL OVER THE WORLD ARE LOSING THEIR POTENCY BECOMING DUDS!

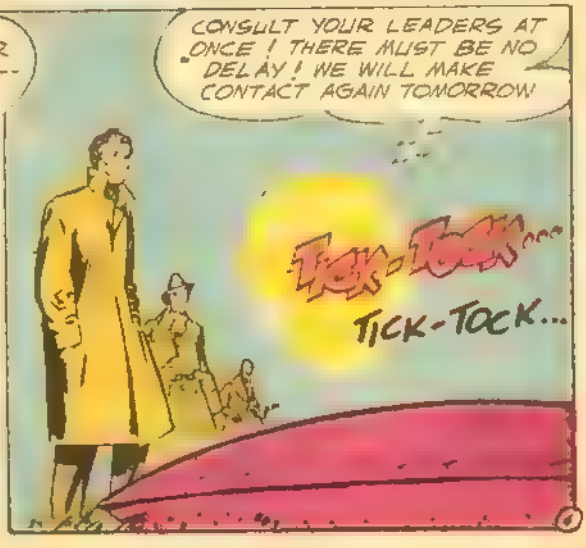

THAT'S THE ANSWER! THIS OBJECT S NO SPACE-CRAFT! IT'S A SPACE-BOMB, DESIGNED TO "ABSORB" THE ELEMENTS OF OUR OWN ATOM BOMBS, REDUCING THEM TO DUDS
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...


...WHILE THE OBJECT ITSELF, POSSESSING THE TOTAL POWER OF ALL OUR BOMBS, IS BECOMING A SUPER-BOMB THAT COULD--
--THAT COULD BLOW YOUR ENTIRE PLANET TO ATOMIC DUST!

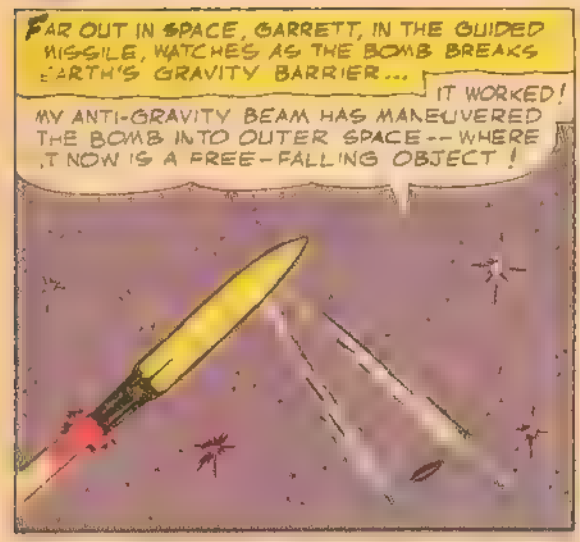

AT THE SOUND OF THE STRANGE VOICE, GARRETT'S GROUP TURNS, AND STARES IN AMAZEMENT AT..
NOW YOU SEE US! USING YOUR ATMOSPHERE AS A "SCREEN"--SIMILAR TO YOUR TELEVISION SCREENS-WE CAN CAST OUR IMAGES BEFORE YOU!

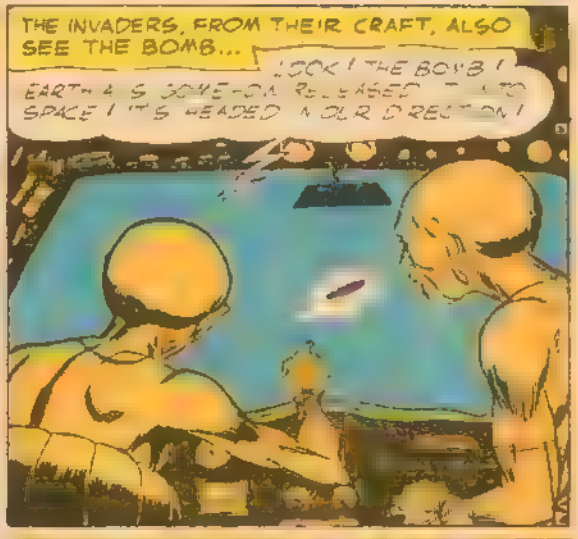

WE ARE HOVERING IN SPACE-SHIPS, FAR BEYOND REACH OF YOUR GUIDED MISSILE WEAPONS! AND WE ARE QUITE SAFE FROM EFFECTS OF THE BOMB'S EXPLOSION... IF IT GOES OFF!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN--"IF IT GOES OFF"?
THE DECISION IS YOURS! SURRENDER YOUR PLANET TO US--OR, AT A SCHEDULED TIME, OUR BOMB WILL EXPLODE, DESTROYING EARTH!

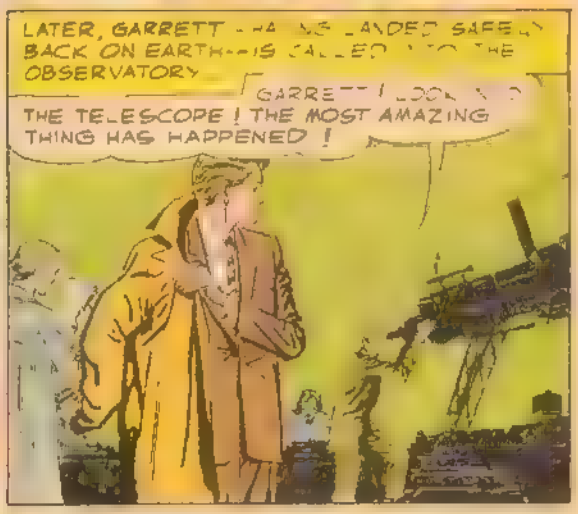

CONSULT YOUR LEADERS AT ONCE! THERE MUST BE NO DELAY! WE WILL MAKE CONTACT AGAIN TOMORROW!
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...

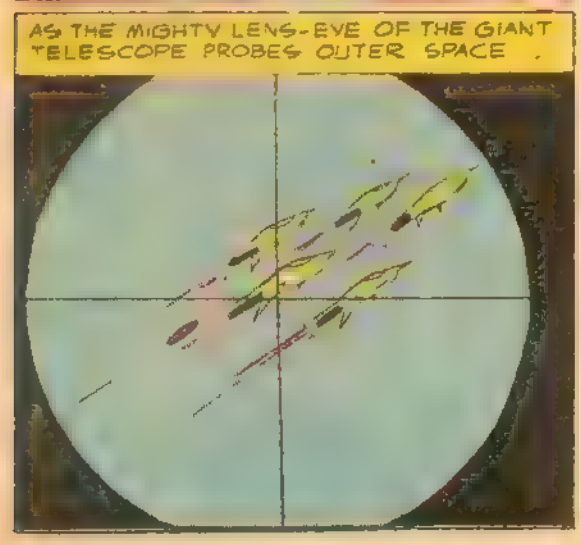
THEY'VE GOT US, GARRETT--AND THEY KNOW IT! WE CAN'T TAMPER WITH THE BOMB, OR WE MAY ACCIDENTLY EXPLODE IT!
WE CAN'T EVEN ATTEMPT TO DEACTIVATE IT--OR EVEN SEND IT INTO SPACE BY MEANS OF GUIDED MISSILES! BUT WE DO HAVE ONE CHANCE...
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...
MY ANTI-GRAVITY BEAM! WITH A GUIDED MISSILE I CAN SEND MY INVENTION INTO SPACE--BEYOND THE ATMOSPHERE--TO DRAW ON COSMIC POWER TO LIFT THE BOMB AWAY FROM EARTH!
BUT THE SLIGHTEST JAR MIGHT DETONATE THE BOMB WHEN IT'S LIFTED!
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...
NO! THE ANTI-GRAVITY BEAM CAUSES AN OBJECT TO BECOME WEIGHTLESS! THERE IS NEITHER FORCE NOR STRAIN AROUND IT TO CAUSE THE SLIGHTEST DISTURBANCE!
YOU SAID YOUR MACHINE MUST BE MAN-CONTROLLED! NO MAN HAS EVER RIDDEN A GUIDED MISSILE!
UNTIL NOW! CALL A PLANE TO FLY ME TO ROCKET PORT! I'M RIDING A GUIDED MISSILE INTO SPACE!
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...
TWO HOURS LATER, AT ROCKET PORT, AFTER HURRIED--BUT THOROUGH--PREPARATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE...
THERE GOES GARRETT! WE'VE USED SENSITIVE DUMMIES TO MAKE EXPERIMENTAL RIDES, WITHOUT APPARENT HARM TO THEM, BUT--
GARRETT WOULDN'T LISTEN! HE LOADED HIMSELF AND HIS INVENTION INTO THE MISSILE'S WARHEAD AND OFF HE WENT!
LATER AT THE SITE OF THE SPACE-BOMB...
GARRETT TOOK OFF THREE HOURS AGO--AND STILL HE HASN'T MADE CONTACT!
LOOK! THE BOMB IS MOVING!
TICK-TOCK...
TICK-TOCK...
GARRETT DID IT! HE'S PULLING THE BOMB AWAY FROM EARTH!

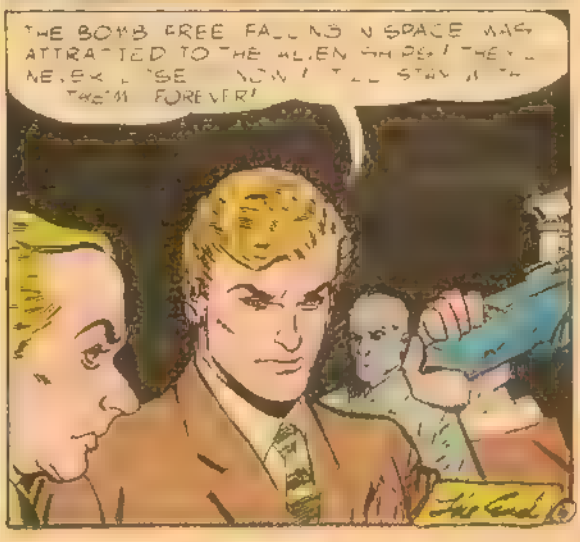

FAR OUT IN SPACE, GARRETT, IN THE GUIDED MISSILE, WATCHES AS THE BOMB BREAKS EARTH'S GRAVITY BARRIER...
IT WORKED!
MY ANTI-GRAVITY BEAM HAS MANEUVERED THE BOMB INTO OUTER SPACE -- WHERE IT NOW IS A FREE-FALLING OBJECT!


THE INVADERS, FROM THEIR CRAFT, ALSO SEE THE BOMB...
LOOK! THE BOMB! EARTH'S ZONE-ON RELEASED IT INTO SPACE! IT'S HEADED IN OUR DIRECTION!

AS A FREE-FALLING OBJECT IN SPACE THE BOMB WILL BE ATTRACTED BY THE NEAREST MASS -OUR SHIPS! ORDER THE FLEET AWAY-- FULL SPEED!

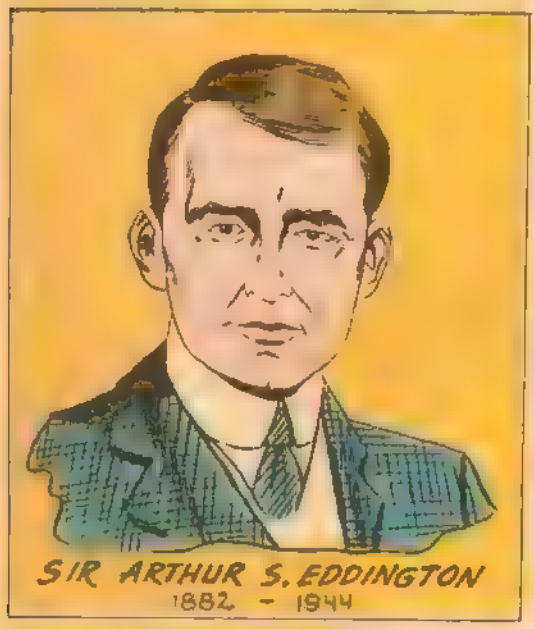

LATER, GARRETT - HAVING LANDED SAFELY BACK ON EARTH--IS CALLED INTO THE OBSERVATORY
GARRETT! LOOK INTO THE TELESCOPE! THE MOST AMAZING THING HAS HAPPENED!


AS THE MIGHTY LENS-EYE OF THE GIANT TELESCOPE PROBES OUTER SPACE


THE BOMB FREE FALLING IN SPACE HAS ATTRACTED TO THE ALIEN SHIPS! THEY CANNOT ESCAPE NOW! I'LL STAY WITH THEM FOREVER!

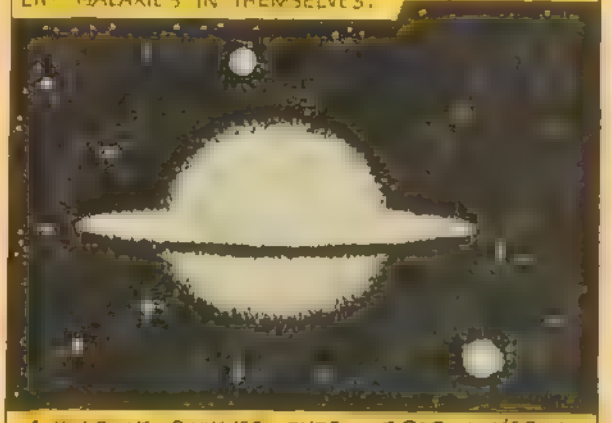
A NEW STAR
HAS BEEN ADDED TO THE SUPERMAN-DC "LINE OF STARS"!
SUPERMAN
BOB HOPE
MARTIN and LEWIS
DATE WITH JUDY
BATMAN
MUTT AND JEFF
JACKIE GLEASON and the HONEYMOONERS
DON'T STEAM ME, ALICE!
EEEEEEEE WHATTA GROUCH
YOU'LL ROAR WITH LAUGHTER AT THE ANTICS OF THE HONEYMOONERS!
REGGIE VAN GLEASON · THE III !
FENWICK BABBITT!
CHARLIE BRATTON, the LOUDMOUTH!
The POOR SOUL!
RUDY the REPAIRMAN!
AND ALL THE OTHER WONDERFULLY FUNNY CHARACTERS
JACKIE GLEASON HAS MADE FAMOUS!
As JACKIE GLEASON Says:
"IT'S A DAN-DAN-DANDY COMICS MAGAZINE!"
LOOK FOR IT AT YOUR FAVORITE NEWS-STAND!
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

GIANTS OF THE TELESCOPE



SIR ARTHUR S. EDDINGTON
1882 - 1944

IN 1914, CONTRARY TO THE GENERALLY ACCEPTED BELIEF OF ASTONOMERS THAT SPIRAL NEBULAE ARE MEMBERS OF OUR GALAXY, EDDINGTON DEMONSTRATED THAT THESE ISLAND UNIVERSES ARE ACTUALLY OUTSIDE OUR SYSTEM AND ARE INDIVIDUAL, INDEPENDENT GALAXIES IN THEMSELVES.

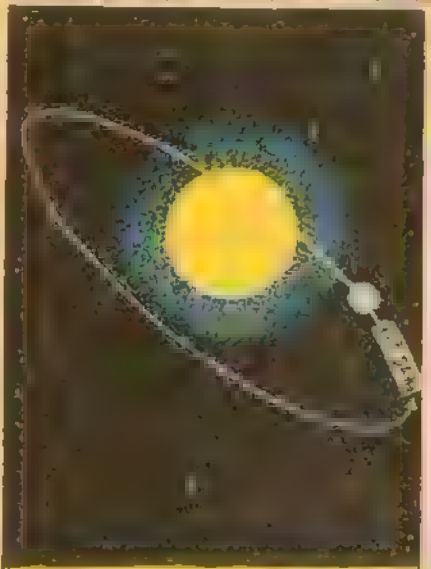


A WHIRLING PINWHEEL TYPE OF SPIRAL NEBULA, 7½ MILLION LIGHT YEARS DISTANT FROM EARTH.

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THIS BRITISH ASTRONOMER'S THEORY OF *RADIATION EQUILIBRIUM*— THAT THE TRANSFER OF HEAT FROM THE INTERIOR TO THE EXTERIOR OF A STAR OCCURS BY *IRRADIATION*—IT IS POSSIBLE TO PREDICT THE ABSOLUTE MAGNITUDES OF ALL STARS.

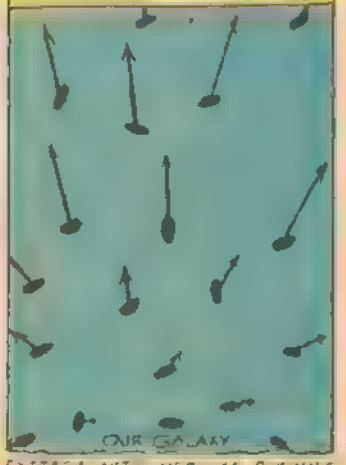
DIAGRAMATIC VIEW OF A COLLAPSING STAR SHOWS THE RINGS OF RADIATION THAT HAVE BEEN SHOT OFF

TURNING HIS ATTENTION TO THE MYSTERY OF ECLIPSING VARIABLE STARS, EDDINGTON THEORIZED THAT WHEN TWO STARS ARE SUFFICIENTLY CLOSE TO EACH OTHER, THE FAINTER STAR UNDERGOES CHANGES IN BRIGHTNESS AS IT REVOLVES AROUND ITS MORE LUMINOUS COMPONENT



EXAMPLE OF A DIM, SMALL STAR REVOLVING AROUND A BRIGHT, GIANT STAR.

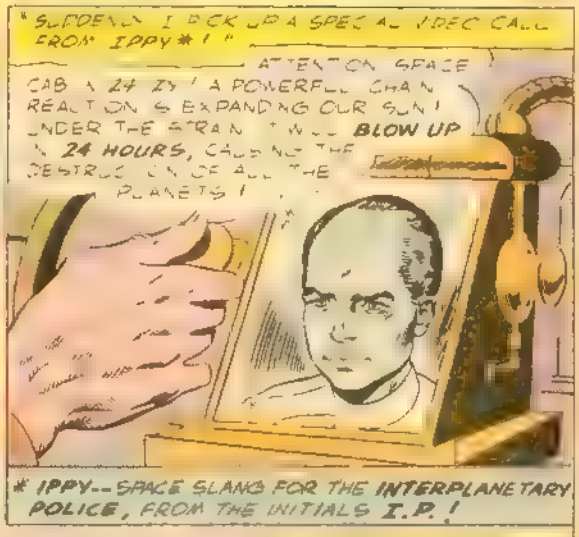
CONCERNING THE THEORY OF THE *EXPANDING UNIVERSE*—THAT EVERY GALAXY IN THE UNIVERSE IS RACING AWAY NOT ONLY FROM OUR GALAXY BUT FROM EVERY OTHER GALAXY AS WELL—EDDINGTON COMMENTED: "*THE THEORY IS SO PREPOSTEROUS.. CONTAINS ELEMENTS SO INCREDIBLE. THAT I FEEL AN INDIGNATION THAT ANYONE SHOULD BELIEVE IT—EXCEPT MYSELF!*" ...



EXTRAGALACTIC NEBULAE RUNNING AWAY FROM OUR GALAXY.

The PEA-POD PLANET!
TAXI
DID YOU EVER KNOW A CABBY WHO DIDN'T HAVE AN INTERESTING YARN TO SPILL? WELL, NONE OF THEM COULD COME WITHIN A MILLION LIGHT YEARS OF MATCHING MINE--WHICH STARTED WITH AN EMERGENCY CALL THAT SENT ME SPEEDING TO A PLANET WHERE I WAS TO MEET NOT ONLY DOUBLE TROUBLE BUT TROUBLE DOUBLED AND REDOUBLED AND RE-REDOUBLED!
I WAS SENT TO THIS WORLD TO FIND PROFESSOR XOTT AND BRING HIM BACK TO EARTH! BUT HOW WILL I KNOW HIM WHEN I SEE HIM? EVERYONE HERE LOOKS ALIKE!

"ONE DAY AS I WAS DRIVING BACK TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM AFTER TAKING A FARE TO VEGA, THE SUN LOOKS DULL YELLOW TO ME
THE SUN SHOULD LOOK LIKE A DULL YELLOW STAR FROM THIS DISTANCE--BUT LOOK HOW BRIGHT AND BIG IT IS!


"SUDDENLY I PICK UP A SPECIAL VIDEO CALL FROM IPPY*!"
ATTENTION SPACE CAB 24 ZX! A POWERFUL CHAIN REACTION IS EXPANDING OUR SUN! UNDER THE STRAIN IT WILL BLOW UP IN 24 HOURS, CAUSING THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL THE PLANETS!
* IPPY--SPACE SLANG FOR THE INTERPLANETARY POLICE, FROM THE INITIALS I.P.!

MERCURY, THE PLANET NEAREST THE SUN, WILL BE THE FIRST TO FEEL THE BLAST OF ATOMIC HEAT

"NEXT THE WATERS OF THE WORLD WILL EVAPORATE INTO SPACE

"THE ARID WASTE-LANDS OF EARTH WILL BAKE APART

"EVEN EARTH'S MIGHTY STEEL STRUCTURES WILL BE UNABLE TO WITHSTAND THE UNIVERSE-SHRIVELING HEAT WAVE

"BY THIS TIME MY HAIR IS STANDING UP STIFFER THAN A COMET'S TAIL . . ."
GROAN! ALL THIS WILL HAPPEN IN 24 HOURS? AH-WHY DON'T YOU GET SOMEBODY TO STOP IT?
ONLY ONE PERSON CAN DO THAT! PROFESSOR XITT XOTT OF THE SIRIUS SOLAR SYSTEM, THE GALAXY'S GREATEST AUTHORITY ON NOVAE *!
UNFORTUNATELY, THERE'S NO WAY TO CONTACT HIM BECAUSE OF COSMIC STATIC! YOUR CAB IS NEAREST SIRIUS--PICK UP PROFESSOR XOTT AND BRING HIM BACK HERE WITHIN 24 HOURS! WE'RE FLASHING YOU HIS PICTURE VIA FOTO FACSIMILE!
"AS SOON AS I GET XOTT'S FACSIMILE PICTURE I CUT OFF MY SET AND SHOVE MY SPACE-CAB INTO ULTRA-SONIC DRIVE! IT'S A DANGEROUS WAY TO TRAVEL, BUT I MUST SAVE TIME . . ."
WHEW! SQUEEZED BETWEEN THOSE TWO METEORS JUST IN TIME!
ALMOST HIT THAT COMET IN THE COSMIC FOG!
* NOVAE IS THE ASTRONOMICAL TERM FOR SUNS AND STARS THAT EXPLODE PERIODICALLY IN THE UNIVERSE.
"AND SO I REACH SIRIUS IN RECORD TIME, PROUDER THAN IF I'D WON THE INTERSTELLAR RACE CLASSIC!""
FIRST TIME I EVER VISITED THIS WORLD! I'LL LAND IN SIRIUS CITY AND HUNT UP PROFESSOR XOTT!
"IMAGINE MY SURPRISE AND JOY WHEN THE VERY FIRST PERSON I MEET"
PARDON ME, SIR! I'M LOOKING FOR... HEY, WHAT LUCK! PROFESSOR XOTT HIMSELF!
YOU ARE MISTAKEN! I AM NOT PROFESSOR XOTT!
I'LL SPEED AROUND THIS WHITE-HOT ONE TWO JETS!

THIS IS NO TIME TO BE MODEST, PROFESSOR! LOOK--YOU'RE EXACTLY LIKE THIS PHOTO FACSIMILE!
THAT PROVES NOTHING!
EVERYONE ON THIS PLANET LOOKS LIKE THAT PHOTO, YOU SEE!
GREAT NEBULA! THEY ALL LOOK THE SAME--LIKE PEAS IN A POD!
"AT THIS CRITICAL MOMENT I WISH I HADN'T CUT OFF MY VIDEO-COMMUNICATOR SO SOON
THE CHIEF SURELY WOULD HAVE WARNED ME OF THIS AND GIVEN ME PROFESSOR XOTT'S ADDRESS! NOW I'VE GOT TO TRACK HIM DOWN, WASTING PRECIOUS TIME! WAIT, I HAVE AN IDEA
SNAP!
"I GO INTO AN INDIAN WAR DANCE--LIKE I USED TO SEE IN OLD WESTERN MOVIES ON TV..."
YAHOO! YIPPEE!
THIS OUGHT TO DRAW A BIG CROWD AROUND ME--AT LEAST ONE OF WHOM SHOULD KNOW WHERE THE PROFESSOR LIES!
"TIME PASSES FASTER THAN A RUNAWAY METEOR, WITHOUT RESULTS, WHEN FINALLY ONE OF THE LOOK-ALIKES SPEAKS MUSIC TO MY EARS..."
YOU SEEK ME? I AM PROFESSOR XOTT!
QUICK, INTO MY CAB! I'LL EXPLAIN ON THE WAY! I'M DRIVING YOU TO EARTH FOR A VITAL SCIENTIFIC MISSION!
"THEN I'LL NEED MY SCIENTIFIC KIT! DRIVE ME TO MY HOME--LEFT AT THE NEXT STREET!
OKAY, PROF--BUT REMEMBER, WE HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE!
4

"BUT AS I FIND OUT LATER, MY PASSENGER IS NOT PROFESSOR XOTT AT ALL -- BUT ZIK ZOLL, CRIMINAL!"
I'LL RUSH RIGHT OUT WITH MY SCIENTIFIC KIT, CABBY!
THAT'S WHAT ME THINKS! I'LL BRING BACK THE LOOT FROM MY LAST JOB! IT'LL BE THE PERFECT GETAWAY, HAVING HIM DRIVE ME TO EARTH! THERE ARE NO SPACE SHIPS ON THIS WORLD TO FOLLOW ME!
TAXI
"BUT LUCKILY AS WE TAKE-OFF ONE THING GIVES HIM AWAY WHEN I EXPLAIN HIS MISSION"
HOPE WE DON'T LAND ON EARTH JUST IN TIME TO BURN UP! YOU SEE PROFESSOR, OUR SUN IS GOING TO EXPLODE!
WHAT?! STOP THE CAB!
TAXI
"I IGNORE HIS COMMAND UNTIL HE SUDDENLY WHIPS OUT A SPACE-GUN..."
B-BUT PROFESSOR XOTT!
I'M NOT XOTT, YOU FOOL! NOW CHANGE COURSE AND DRIVE ME TO ANY SOLAR SYSTEM IN THE UNIVERSE -- EXCEPT YOURS OR MINE!
BY THE TIME I DELIVER HIM TO ANOTHER SYSTEM, AND RETURN FOR THE REAL PROFESSOR XOTT, IT WILL BE TOO LATE TO SAVE EARTH! WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
"SUDDENLY INSPIRATION HITS ME LIKE A METEOR FALLING ON MY HEAD!"
HE'S NOT USED TO SPACE TRAVEL! IF I DO A FEW LOOPS THROUGH ULTRA-SONIC DRIVE, IT'LL MAKE HIM LOSE ALL SENSE OF TIME AND SPACE!
AM I GOING TOO FAST FOR YOU SIR?
OF COURSE NOT, CABBY! THE FASTER THE BETTER!
5

WHEN I SHOT YOU BACK TO RECAPTURE DRIE.
HA HA YOURSELF!
HA HA!
AFTER WE LAND WE GET A BETTER SHOT AT THE MAN AT THE CONTROLS AT THE BACK OF THE SHIP!
OFFICER! ARREST THAT MAN!
WHAT'S THIS IN MY OWN CAR?
SURE! IT WAS DARK WHEN I REMEMBERED YOU PEOPLE HAVE NO HEADLIGHTS AND NEITHER CAN HOW YOUR DRIVER
TAXI
MORE PROFESSOR! THE CLOCK EXPLODE NINE HOUR!
RELAX! THE BEAUTY OF THE BOMB IS WHEN THE EXTINGUISHER WORKS IT WILL ROCKET WITHIN AND SHUT THE MAD
AFTER THE POLICE TELL THE REAL ONE BURNED HOME TO OUR SOLAR SYSTEM
IN THE MEANTIME! THE PLANET HAS BEEN SAVED AND A BIG CHEER FOR THE PROFESSOR! ACTUALLY, PLEASE
ONE THING BOTHERS ME. I HAVE A WIFE ABOUT EARTH PEOPLE CABBIES! TO WORK. THE PROFESSOR! BUT YOU FIRST!
WELL YOU WOULDN'T AS PEAS.
HOW DO YOU TELL EACH OTHER APART?
THAT'S THE SAME GUY I WAS GOING TO
TAXI
Jac Ford

WONDERS of SPACE

EINSTEIN'S GREAT GAMBLE!

IN 1922, Dr. W. W. Campbell, director of the Lick Observatory, led an expedition of astronomers to Australia to photograph an eclipse scheduled to occur on September 21. It has been stated that never before had so many people—scientists and laymen alike—anxiously awaited the results to be showed by the photographic plates taken just before and during the eclipse.

Perhaps the calmest and most confident man on earth concerning the findings of these photographic plates was Albert Einstein. Eight years earlier he had predicted precisely what would occur. Indeed, he staked the validity of his entire theory of relativity on the positive findings of this solar eclipse.

Before we lift the curtain of suspense and reveal whether Einstein's extraordinary gamble paid off, let us peek backstage at some of the developments that led to the opening of this great scientific drama.

Imagine that a spaceship is rapidly accelerating through the empty void, far afield from any possible gravitational influence. Suddenly a horizontally traveling meteor rips through one side of the space-vessel, zips across the interior and passes through the opposite side of the wall. Will the meteor holes at either wall ends be diametrically opposite each other? No—for during the fractional moment that the meteor passes through the inside of the ship, the ship is accelerating "upward," and hence the hole through which the meteor emerges from the ship would be slightly *below* the hole made by the entering meteor.

This is so apparent to us because we have been privileged to watch this action from *outside* the ship and can easily understand exactly what has occurred. But suppose that during this meteor action we had been *inside* the ship. In this case we would have no conception where in the universe we were. Our knowledge would be limited to the fact that on earth any moving object describes a parabolic curve toward the ground. Hence we would have to come to the "obvious" conclusion that we were at rest in a gravitational field and that the meteor which ripped through our confined vessel was simply making a perfectly normal curve with respect to the floor.

Let us hop aboard our accelerating spaceship again. A beam of light enters a tiny porthole opening, flashes through the ship at its normal speed of 186,000 miles a second and emerges through another porthole at the opposite side. Again during the split-second interval that the light travels across the vessel's interior, the ship is speeding spaceward, hence by the time the light can emerge it will have to go through an exit opening slightly *below* the first one. From

our privileged observation post *outside* the ship this is perfectly obvious.

Should we again be observers inside the ship, equipped with precision measuring instruments, we'd be able to compute the curvature the light beam makes between its entrance and exit. Though we'd be able to compute it, we wouldn't be able to understand the result. For as far as we are aware, remember, we consider ourselves remaining stationary in a gravitational field and must adhere to the established principle that light always travels in a *straight line.*

Now along comes Einstein and explains this baffling phenomenon by means of his theory of relativity. Energy has *mass,* he says, and since light is a form of energy it must have mass too, and be affected by a gravitational field. Light, just like any material object, will travel in a *curve* when passing across the gravitational field of a massive body.

Though we may be willing to accept Einstein's explanation, scientists demand proof. How can we go about proving such a theory? Einstein quickly came up with the answer to that. Observe a ray of starlight as it passes close to the sun and you will note that the ray will be drawn out of its straight course. Since the path of the ray will be drawn inward toward the sun, an observer on earth, looking back up the ray, would see the star as though it were moved outward from the sun.

If a photograph of a group of stars taken with the sun in the middle were compared with a photograph of the same star formation without the sun, the images of the stars in the first photograph will be seen to have been displaced from their ordinary positions in the sky. Einstein didn't make a vague guess about this star deflection. He calculated that a ray of starlight just grazing the sun's disk would be deflected by 1.75 seconds of arc.

Eager as astronomers were to put Einstein's theory to an immediate test, they couldn't do so. Stars cannot be photographed while the blazing sun is shining into the telescope. Only by shielding the sun, as the moon does to the solar body during an eclipse, could such a favorable circumstance occur.

The first opportunity arrived in 1919, and expeditions were dispatched to Brazil and West Africa, the most favorable vantage points for photographing the eclipse of May 29. Upon examination of the developed plates, Professor Eddington, in charge of the expeditions, claimed that Einstein's theory was established. However, more conservative scientists refused to be pressured into acceptance because the best plate contained only seven good star images and they deemed that insufficient grounds for support of the theory.

By the time the next good eclipse occurred in 1922, the public had somehow become greatly interested in the results too. The development of the photographic plates was awaited with impatience and anxiety. Instead of one good plate with seven stars, Dr. Campbell, the 1922 expedition chief, succeeded in obtaining four excellent plates, showing from sixty-two to eighty-four star images.

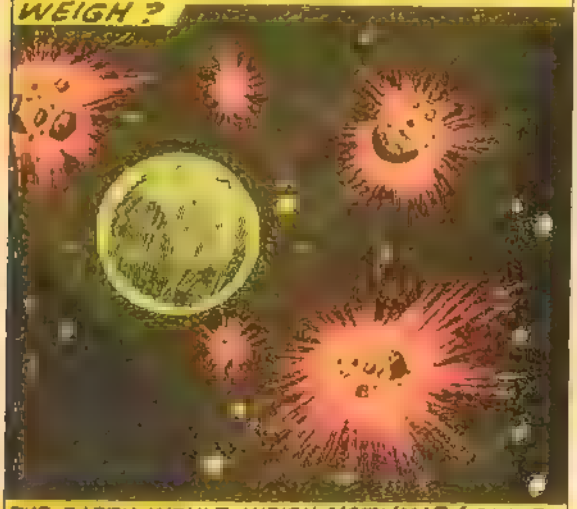
To compare these plates with those taken prior to the eclipse, Campbell worked for fifty hours, measuring with his micrometer the positions of the stars on a single pair of plates. Meanwhile, as a check, another astronomer was making his own independent measurements of the identical plates.

By the time the results were ready to be announced, excitement had reached a fever pitch—and the public was not let down. They were rooting for an Einstein victory and they got it! The final averages of all the measurements of all the star images on all the plates gave a deflection for a ray passing at the edge of the sun's disk 1.72 seconds of arc, almost exactly the result predicted by Einstein (a discrepancy that could be accounted for by the high precision work the instruments had to make).

The dawn of a new age had arrived—civilization was forced to slant its thoughts and ideas to revolutionary new concepts . . . all because a scientific genius willingly staked his whole theory of relativity on the assumption that a ray of starlight passing close to the sun would be veered off its straight course and be bent toward the sun.

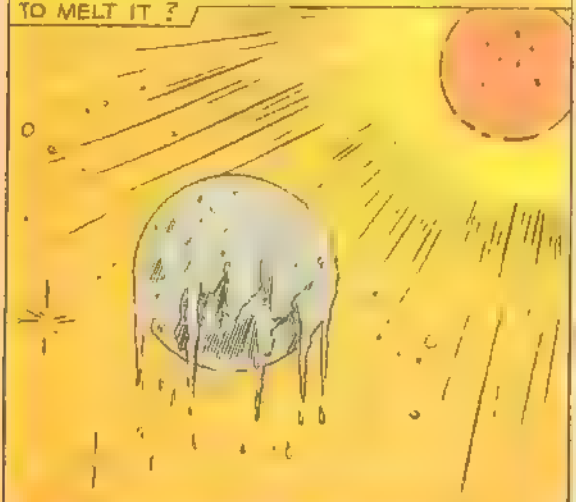
MYSTERIES in SPACE!

IT HAS BEEN ESTIMATED THAT THERE ARE ABOUT 200 BILLION STARS IN OUR GALAXY, WHICH IS BUT ONE OF BILLIONS OF OTHER GALAXIES. IF A COSMIC CATACLYSM WIPED OUT EVERY WORLD IN THE UNIVERSE BUT EARTH, HOW MUCH WOULD OUR PLANET **WEIGH?**



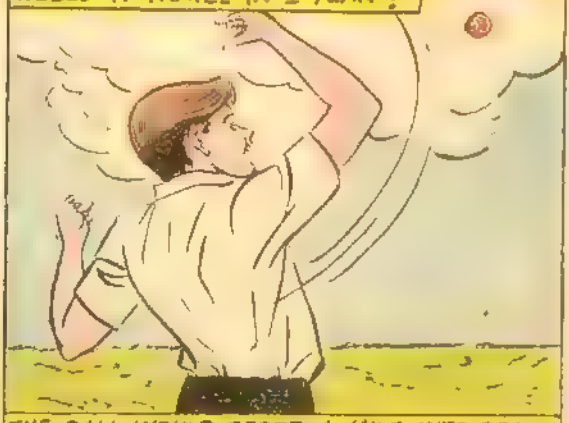
THE EARTH WOULD WEIGH **NOTHING!** SINCE **WEIGHT** IS A GRAVITATIONAL FORCE EXERTED BY ONE BODY ON ANOTHER, THE EARTH WOULD HAVE NO WEIGHT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO OTHER BODY TO ATTRACT IT.'

IF THE EARTH TURNED INTO A SOLID GLOBE OF ICE, HOW LONG WOULD IT TAKE THE SUN TO MELT IT?



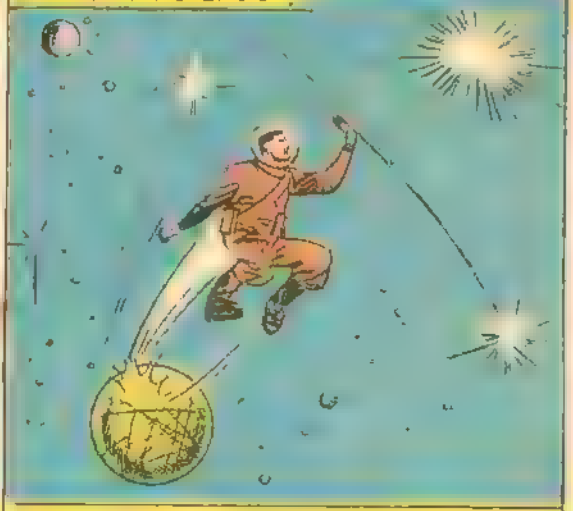
THE ICY PLANET WOULD BE COMPLETELY MELTED IN 700,000 YEARS.

GRAVITY MUST EVENTUALLY PULL BACK TO EARTH ANY OBJECT THAT IS HURLED OFF IT AT A SPEED OF LESS THAN 7 MILES A SECOND. ASSUMING THERE WERE NO GRAVITY, AND A BALL WAS THROWN SPACEWARD AT A SPEED OF 20 MILES AN HOUR, HOW FAR WOULD IT TRAVEL IN 1 YEAR?



THE BALL WOULD SPEED A MILE INTO SPACE IN 3 MINUTES--AND A YEAR LATER WOULD BE 175,000 MILES AWAY FROM EARTH.

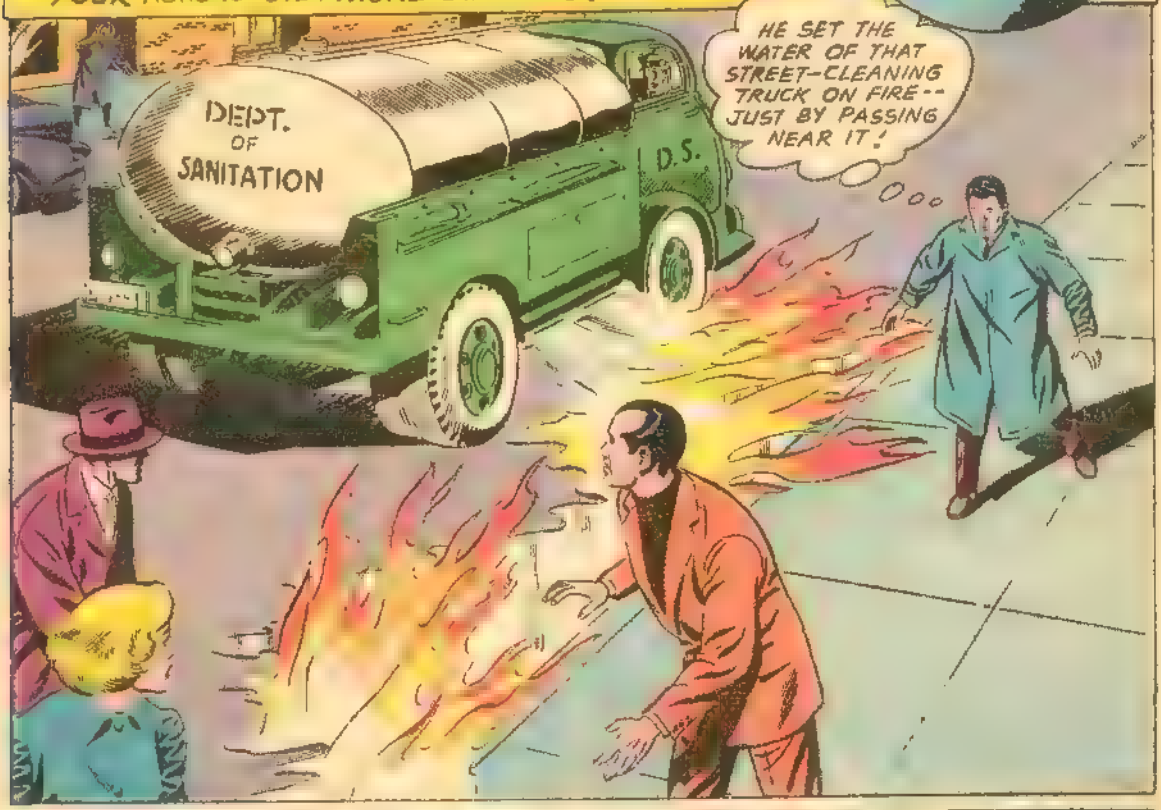
ASTEROIDS ARE TINY PLANET-LIKE BODIES REVOLVING BETWEEN MARS AND JUPITER. IMAGINE ONE OF THESE ASTEROIDS HAS A DIAMETER OF 8 MILES AND A MEAN DENSITY EQUAL TO EARTH'S. IF A HIGH-JUMPER COULD REMAIN OFF EARTH FOR 1 SECOND, HOW LONG WOULD HE BE OFF THE GROUND OF THIS IMAGINARY ASTEROID?



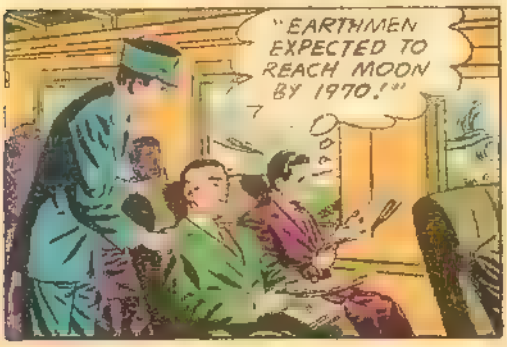
THE ASTEROID'S LIGHTER SURFACE GRAVITY WOULD ENABLE THE HIGH-JUMPER TO REMAIN OFF THE GROUND FOR 1000 SECONDS.'

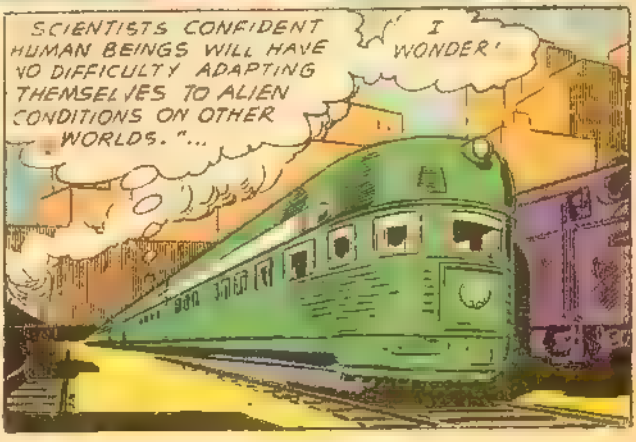
THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE EARTH!

SUPPOSE YOU SAW SOMEONE WHO COULD PASS THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS, WALK ABOUT WITH BOTH FEET OFF THE GROUND, MAKE WATER BURN, AND PERFORM OTHER FANTASTIC FEATS THAT DEFIED THE LAWS OF SCIENCE! WHY SHOULD YOU ASSUME HIS ACTIONS WERE EXTRAORDINARY? FROM *HIS* POINT OF VIEW HE MIGHT CONSIDER *YOUR* ACTIONS EVEN *MORE* STARTLING!



LIKE MANY COMMUTERS, SCIENTIST DAVID RAWSON PASSES THE TIME BY CATCHING UP ON THE DAY'S NEWS




SCIENTISTS CONFIDENT HUMAN BEINGS WILL HAVE NO DIFFICULTY ADAPTING THEMSELVES TO ALIEN CONDITIONS ON OTHER WORLDS."...
I WONDER!

AS THE TRAIN REACHES CENTRAL TERMINAL, AND DAVE HEADS FOR THE EXIT

I'D BETTER STOP THINKING ABOUT SPACE TRAVEL AND CONCENTRATE ON MY LIGHT ANALYZER! A SMALL PORTABLE INSTRUMENT THAT'LL GIVE A COMPLETE SPECTRAL PICTURE...

THAT DOOR IS SUPPOSED TO OPEN WHEN YOU MOVE ACROSS IT IT'S CONTROLLED BY AN ELECTRONIC EYE... IT'S OUT OF ORDER.

WHEN THE STRANGER HAS PASSED THROUGH THE DOOR PUSHED OPEN FROM THE OTHER SIDE

THAT'S ODD... IT OPENED FOR ME, SO IT CAN'T BE OUT OF ORDER. WHY DIDN'T IT OPEN FOR HIM?

HIS CURIOSITY AROUSED, THE YOUNG SCIENTIST FOLLOWS THE OTHER MAN

THE BALLOON EXPLODED JUST AS HE PASSED BY... FOR A MOMENT I THOUGHT I SAW A SPARK SHOOT OUT FROM THE MAN TO THE BALLOON

BAW! MY BALLOON BROKE.

SOON AFTER, A CANDID CAMERAMAN SNAPS A PICTURE.

IF YOU WAIT A FEW SECONDS, MISTER, YOU CAN HAVE YOUR PICTURE FOR ONLY A QUARTER!

PRESENTLY, WHEN THE FILM IS DEVELOPED,

WHA...? THE PICTURE'S JUST A BLUR! THIS NEVER HAPPENED TO ME BEFORE!

THE TRAIL OF MYSTERY DEEPENS FURTHER WHEN
MY FACE FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!
MINE TOO!
AN EMANATION FROM THAT STRANGER SUNBURNED THEM AS HE PASSED BY!
SUDDENLY, AS THE STRANGER INCREASES HIS SPEED,
GOOD GOSH! HIS FEET ARE SLIGHTLY OFF THE GROUND! HE'S MOVING FORWARD BY THE ACTION OF HIS ARMS--LIKE SWIMMING THROUGH WATER.
FINALLY, HIS CURIOSITY NEAR THE BURSTING POINT, DAVE ACCOSTS THE MAN
EXCUSE ME...MAYBE IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS, BUT I'M A SCIENTIST AND THERE ARE SOME THINGS I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT YOU--
BUT WHEN THE STRANGER OPENS HIS MOUTH TO REPLY...
HE SPEAKS WITH LIGHT WAVES INSTEAD OF SOUND WAVES!
SOON A SHORT DISTANCE AWAY
I CAN'T STOP IN TIME!
HEY, DON'T CROSS THE STREET IN ALL THAT TRAFFIC! YOU'LL BE HIT!
AND THEN, TO THE BEWILDERED AMAZEMENT OF TRUCK DRIVER AND BYSTANDERS
HE'S WALKING RIGHT THROUGH THE TRUCK!
SCREECH!
3

AS DAVE RAWSON CONTINUES ON THE TRAIL...
HE'S GAPING AT THAT SKY-SCRAPER AS IF HE NEVER SAW ONE BEFORE! HIS UNEARTHLY BEHAVIOR...THE INHUMAN THINGS HE'S DONE... HE CAN'T BE AN EARTHMAN! HE'S FROM ANOTHER WORLD!
MAYBE HE'S HERE TO SPY ON EARTH! I'VE GOT TO CATCH UP TO HIM--FIND OUT!...
BUT AS THE SCIENTIST TRIES TO GRAB THE STRANGER FROM BEHIND...
I'VE GOT YOU...WHA--MY HAND WENT RIGHT THROUGH HIM!
WHEN MY HAND PASSED THROUGH HIM, I FELT A BURNING SENSATION! MY SKIN'S TURNED BRICK-RED!
NO U TURN
HE CAN WALK THROUGH SOLID OBJECTS--HE DEFIES ALL OUR LAWS OF SCIENCE! IF HIS RACE IS PLANNING TO INVADE EARTH, WE'RE HELPLESS! THERE'S NO WAY TO STOP THEM!
THOUGH UNABLE TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION, DAVE GRIMLY CONTINUES HIS PURSUIT...
D.S.
HE SET THE WATER OF THAT STREET-CLEANING TRUCK ON FIRE...JUST BY PASSING NEAR IT!
4

AS FIRE ENGINES RACE TO THE SCENE, THE SCIENTIST TRIES TO EXPLAIN WHAT HAS HAPPENED
DON'T USE THAT HOSE THAT'S WATER BURNING! MORE WATER WOULD ONLY SPREAD THE FIRE.
BURNING WATER? STOP WASTING MY TIME--WE'VE GOT TO GET THAT FIRE OUT!
BUT WHEN THE FREMAN TURNS A STREAM OF WATER ON THE FIRE
THE WATER'S CATCHING ON FIRE - RIGHT UP TO THE NOZZLE OF THE HOSE! H-HOW ARE WE GOING TO PUT OUT THAT FIRE?
NO SCIENTIFIC LAWS WORK RIGHT AROUND THIS ALIEN MAYBE THAT'S A CLUE! ORDINARILY, WATER PUTS OUT FIRE AND OXYGEN FEEDS FLAMES. MAKES THEM BURN FASTER! BUT IF I TRY THE OPPOSITE..
SOON, DAVE PUTS HIS IDEA INTO ACTION
OXYGEN IS SNUFFING OUT THE FLAMES! MY IDEA WORKED--BUT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND WHY!
AFTER THE LAST FLAMES HAVE DIED AWAY, DAVE AGAIN TAKES UP THE PURSUIT
IF I COULD ESTABLISH COMMUNICATION WITH THAT ALIEN I MIGHT BE ABLE TO DISCOVER WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT! BUT THE LAST TIME I TRIED THAT, HE ANSWERED ME IN LIGHT FLASHES...
WE GOT IT. I'LL USE MY LIGHT ANALYZER. THE COLOR, THE BRIGHTNESS THE SIZE AND SHAPE OF THE LIGHT FLASHES! IF THEY HAVE A MEANING I'LL FIND OUT WHAT IT IS.
SNAP!

AFTER DAVE SECURES HIS LIGHT ANALYZER, A TRAIL OF SUNBURNED FACES LEADS HIM BACK TO THE ALIEN...

STOP! I WANT TO TALK TO YOU!

AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS, HOURS LATER, AFTER A LONG SESSION WITH THE LIGHT ANALYZER...

HAVE YOU MASTERED HIS SPEECH, RAWSON? DO YOU UNDERSTAND HIM?

YES, CAPTAIN! HE DID COME FROM OUTER SPACE TO SPY ON EARTH--PREPARATORY TO INVASION...

BUT HE FOUND OUT THAT EARTH IS UNIQUE AMONG PLANETS--IT IS THE *ONLY* WORLD WHERE THE LAWS OF SCIENCE DON'T CONFORM TO THOSE OF ALL OTHER WORLDS! AND BECAUSE IT'D BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR HIS PEOPLE TO ADAPT THEMSELVES TO EARTH'S ABNORMAL CONDITIONS, HE'S GOING TO CALL OFF THE INVASION!

AFTER THE SPACEMAN HAS RETURNED TO HIS SHIP AND TAKEN OFF...

IF EARTH WERE A "*NORMAL*" PLANET, WE WOULD HAVE BEEN INVADED BY THOSE CREATURES FROM SPACE! BUT LUCKILY FOR US *THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE EARTH!*

THE END

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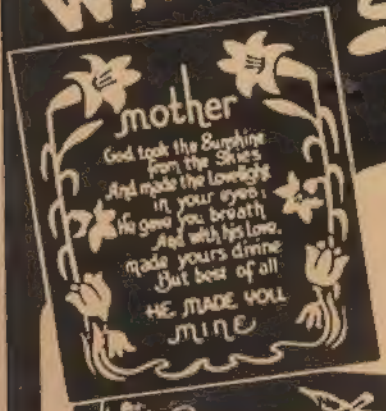
mother
God took the Sunshine from the Skies
And made the Lovelight in your eyes;
He gave you breath
And with his Love,
made yours divine
But best of all
HE MADE YOU MINE

CHILD'S PRAYER
Now I Lay me down To Sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep
If I should Die before I Wake,
I pray the Lord my soul to take

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